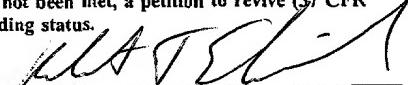


02 NOV 2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 9-2001)		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 1712207
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known) 09/980750 Unknown
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/AT00/00118	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE May 4, 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED May 5, 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION Method for Disintegrating and Granulating Slags and Device for Carrying Out Said Method		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Alfred EDLINGER		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. <input type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). <p>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825. 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: Application Data Sheet International Search Report International Preliminary Examination Report First Page of Published PCT Application Express Mail Certificate Label No. EK288579401US 		

U41980750		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1040.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$890.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$740.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =		\$ 890	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).		\$ 130	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE
Total claims	40 - 20 =	20	x \$18.00
Independent claims	5 - 3 =	2	x \$84.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)		+ \$280.00	\$
		TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =	\$ 1548
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2. SUBTOTAL =		\$	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).		\$	
		TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =	\$ 1548
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +		\$	
		TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =	\$ 1548
		Amount to be refunded:	\$
		charged:	\$
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ 1548 to cover the above fees is enclosed. b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0305. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. d. <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.			
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137 (a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.			
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Robert J. Schneider Chapman and Cutler 111 West Monroe Street Chicago, Illinois 60603 (312) 845-3919			
 SIGNATURE Robert J. Schneider NAME 27,383 REGISTRATION NUMBER			

ATTORNEY DOCKET No. 1712207

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PATENT APPLICATION OF:

ALFRED EDLINGER

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/AT00/00118INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE:
MAY 4, 2000FOR: METHOD FOR DISINTEGRATING SLAGS AND
DEVICE FOR CARRYING OUT SAID METHODEXAMINER: UNKNOWN
GROUP ART UNIT: UNKNOWNCommissioner for Patents
BOX PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of this new U.S. National Stage Application filed under 35 U.S.C. § 371, of the International Application PCT/AT00/00118, Applicant respectfully submits the following Amendments and Remarks to be entered into the patent application identified above, and earnestly request that the Examiner pass this application to allowance.

AMENDMENTS:**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel originally filed Claims 1 through 11.

Please add new Claims 12 through 52, renumbered herein as Claims 1 through 40. These new Claims, in clean form, are provided on the following pages.

CLAIMS:

1. A method for disintegrating and granulating slags, in which the molten slag is ejected into a granulation chamber by the aid of a propulsion jet, characterized in that gases, in particular air or oxygen, are introduced into the molten slag to form a foamed slag, that the temperature of the foamed slag is raised to a temperature of above 1350°C, in particular 1420° to 1680°C, by the aid of fuels such as, e.g., coal introduced into the foamed slag, and that the foamed slag is ejected into a granulation chamber.

2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the foamed slag is ejected by vapor and impacted with high-pressure water in countercurrent.

3. A method according to claim 2, characterized in that vapor having a temperature of between 200° and 1200°C and a pressure of between 5 and 15 bars is used to eject the foamed slag.

4. A method according to claim 2, characterized in that high-pressure water having a pressure of between 50 and 300 bars is directed against the foamed slag vapor jet.

5. A method according to claim 2, characterized in that vapor having a temperature of between 200° and 1200°C and a pressure of between 5 and 15 bars is used to eject the foamed

slag, and high-pressure water having a pressure of between 50 and 300 bars is directed against the foamed slag vapor jet.

6. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the slag basicity in the foamed slag is adjusted to values of from 0.8 to 1.3 by the addition of one or more of the group consisting of CaO, Al₂O₃ and SiO₂.

7. A method according to claim 2, characterized in that the slag basicity in the foamed slag is adjusted to values of from 0.8 to 1.3 by the addition of one or more of the group consisting of CaO, Al₂O₃ and SiO₂.

8. A method according to claim 3, characterized in that the slag basicity in the foamed slag is adjusted to values of from 0.8 to 1.3 by the addition of one or more of the group consisting of CaO, Al₂O₃ and SiO₂.

9. A method according to claim 4, characterized in that the slag basicity in the foamed slag is adjusted to values of from 0.8 to 1.3 by the addition of one or more of the group consisting of CaO, Al₂O₃ and SiO₂.

10. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the volume weight of the foamed slag is adjusted to below 0.35 kg/dm³, in particular approximately 0.28 kg/dm³.

11. A method according to claim 2, characterized in that the volume weight of the foamed slag is adjusted to below 0.35 kg/dm³, in particular approximately 0.28 kg/dm³.
12. A method according to claim 3, characterized in that the volume weight of the foamed slag is adjusted to below 0.35 kg/dm³, in particular approximately 0.28 kg/dm³.
13. A method according to claim 4, characterized in that the volume weight of the foamed slag is adjusted to below 0.35 kg/dm³, in particular approximately 0.28 kg/dm³.
14. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the foamed slag is maintained under a pressure of between 3 and 7 bars.
15. A method according to claim 2, characterized in that the foamed slag is maintained under a pressure of between 3 and 7 bars.
16. A method according to claim 3, characterized in that the foamed slag is maintained under a pressure of between 3 and 7 bars.
17. A method according to claim 4, characterized in that the foamed slag is maintained under a pressure of between 3 and 7 bars.
18. A method according to claim 5, characterized in that the slag basicity in the foamed slag is adjusted to values of from 0.8 to 1.3 by the addition of one or more of the group

consisting of CaO, Al₂O₃ and SiO₂, the volume weight of the foamed slag is adjusted to below 0.35 kg/dm³, in particular approximately 0.28 kg/dm³, and the foamed slag is maintained under a pressure of between 3 and 7 bars.

19. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that exhaust gases from the foamed slag are fed to a gas turbine.

20. A method according to claim 2, characterized in that exhaust gases from the foamed slag are fed to a gas turbine.

21. A method according to claim 3, characterized in that exhaust gases from the foamed slag are fed to a gas turbine.

22. A method according to claim 4, characterized in that exhaust gases from the foamed slag are fed to a gas turbine.

23. A method according to claim 5, characterized in that exhaust gases from the foamed slag are fed to a gas turbine.

24. A method according to claim 5, characterized in that the slag basicity in the foamed slag is adjusted to values of from 0.8 to 1.3 by the addition of one or more of the group consisting of CaO, Al₂O₃ and SiO₂, the volume weight of the foamed slag is adjusted to below 0.35 kg/dm³, in particular approximately 0.28 kg/dm³, the foamed slag is maintained under a

pressure of between 3 and 7 bars, and exhaust gases from the foamed slag are fed to a gas turbine.

25. A device for disintegrating and granulating slags, comprising: a tundish (1) into which a gas lance (20) opens; a foamed slag overflow (5) and an outlet opening (6) for slag; said tundish (1) carrying a pressure-proof lid (8) to which a sluice (9) is connected to charge solids and coal above the slag bath; and a lance (7) opening into the slag outlet opening (6) to feed a carrier gas aimed to eject the foamed slag (4).

26. A device according to claim 25, further comprising: a grinding and evaporation chamber connected to the slag outlet opening (6); a pressure water duct (16) opening on the chamber side located opposite the slag outlet (6); and a screening means (18) connected to the grinding and evaporation chamber to discharge the disintegrated and granulated material.

27. A device according to claim 25, further comprising an exhaust gas duct connected to the tundish (1) to drive a gas turbine.

28. A device according to claim 25, further comprising an exhaust gas duct connected to the tundish (1) to power a heat exchanger.

29. A device for disintegrating and granulating slags, comprising: a tundish (1) in whose bottom tuyeres (2) are formed; a foamed slag overflow (5) and an outlet opening (6) for slag; said tundish (1) carrying a pressure-proof lid (8) to which a sluice (9) is connected to charge solids and coal above the slag bath; and a lance (7) opening into the slag outlet opening (6) to feed a carrier gas aimed to eject the foamed slag (4).

30. A device according to claim 29, further comprising: a grinding and evaporation chamber connected to the slag outlet opening (6); a pressure water duct (16) opening on the chamber side located opposite the slag outlet (6); and a screening means (18) connected to the grinding and evaporation chamber to discharge the disintegrated and granulated material.

31. A device according to claim 29, further comprising an exhaust gas duct connected to the tundish (1) to drive a gas turbine.

32. A device according to claim 29, further comprising an exhaust gas duct connected to the tundish (1) to power a heat exchanger.

33. A device for disintegrating and granulating slags, comprising: a tundish (1) into which a gas lance (20) opens; a foamed slag overflow (5) and an outlet opening (6) for slag; said tundish (1) carrying a pressure-proof lid (8) to which a sluice (9) is connected to charge solids and coal above the slag bath; a lance (7) opening into the slag outlet opening (6) to feed a carrier gas aimed to eject the foamed slag (4); a means for ejecting the foamed slag by vapor; and a means for impacting the foamed slag with high-pressure water in countercurrent.

34. A device according to claim 33, further comprising: a grinding and evaporation chamber connected to the slag outlet opening (6); a pressure water duct (16) opening on the chamber side located opposite the slag outlet (6); and a screening means (18) connected to the grinding and evaporation chamber to discharge the disintegrated and granulated material.

35. A device according to claim 33, further comprising an exhaust gas duct connected to the tundish (1) to drive a gas turbine.

36. A device according to claim 33, further comprising an exhaust gas duct connected to the tundish (1) to power a heat exchanger.

37. A device for disintegrating and granulating slags, comprising: a tundish (1) in whose bottom tuyeres (2) are arranged; a foamed slag overflow (5) and an outlet opening (6) for

slag; said tundish (1) carrying a pressure-proof lid (8) to which a sluice (9) is connected to charge solids and coal above the slag bath; a lance (7) opening into the slag outlet opening (6) to feed a carrier gas aimed to eject the foamed slag (4); a means for ejecting the foamed slag by vapor; and a means for impacting the foamed slag with high-pressure water in countercurrent.

38. A device according to claim 37, further comprising: a grinding and evaporation chamber connected to the slag outlet opening (6); a pressure water duct (16) opening on the chamber side located opposite the slag outlet (6); and a screening means (18) connected to the grinding and evaporation chamber to discharge the disintegrated and granulated material.

39. A device according to claim 37, further comprising an exhaust gas duct connected to the tundish (1) to drive a gas turbine.

40. A device according to claim 37, further comprising an exhaust gas duct connected to the tundish (1) to power a heat exchanger.

REMARKS:

By this Amendment, the Applicant has canceled originally filed Claims 1 through 11, and added new Claims 12 through 52, renumbered herein as Claims 1 through 40, to more clearly define the subject matter of the invention in compliance with U.S. Patent Office rules. Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 50-0305.

Please address all correspondence in this application to:

Robert J. Schneider
CHAPMAN AND CUTLER
111 West Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60603-4080

The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the direct number (312) 845-3919 with any questions that arise in connection with this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Robert J. Schneider,

Registration No. 27,383

Date: November 2, 2001

Attorneys for Applicants:

Robert J. Schneider

CHAPMAN AND CUTLER

111 West Monroe Street

Chicago, Illinois 60603-4080

Phone: 312-845-3919

- 1 -

Method for Disintegrating and Granulating Slags and Device for Carrying out said Method

The invention relates to a method for disintegrating and 5 granulating slags, in which the molten slag is ejected into a granulation chamber by the aid of a propulsion jet, and a device for carrying out said method.

For the disintegration and granulation of slags it has already 10 been known to charge liquid slags into a slag tundish and discharge the same into a granulation chamber by the aid of a propulsion jet. In that case, the liquid slag was usually discharged into the granulation chamber by the aid of vapor or 15 high-pressure water and atomized when emitted into the granulation chamber, rapid cooling having been effected within the granulation chamber, for instance by the feeding of high-pressure water or the introduction of hydrocarbons. Due to the rheological properties of liquid slags, such slags had to be heated to relatively high temperatures, and in order to obtain 20 an accordingly finely atomized jet also limiting conditions as to the basicity of the slag would have had to be taken into account if a sufficiently fine distribution and hence a sufficiently fine disintegration without subsequent grinding had been sought. An optimized slag composition aimed at as 25 fine a disintegration and granulation as possible, thus, necessarily calls for a compromise in respect to possible slag compositions unless extremely high slag temperatures will be chosen. High slag temperatures, in turn, involve a high wear of the refractory lining of the slag tundish.

30 In order to obtain a more rapid division of such liquid slags in a consecutively arranged granulation space, it has already been proposed to inject gases into the slag in order to thereby saturate the slag bath with gases. As a rule, inert 35 gases were used for that purpose, with oxygen usually being applicable only to the extent that is required to ensure that a completely oxidized slag will be obtained, which eliminates the risk of undesired explosions in the subsequent supply of high-pressure water to the liquid slag.

The invention aims to provide a method of the initially defined kind, by which it is feasible to vary the composition of the slag and, in particular, the basicity of the slag
5 within wide limits without loosing the advantages of a rapid disintegration and a rapid granulation of slags while, at the same time, providing the opportunity to safeguard the relatively high temperatures required for the rheology of the outgoing slag in a particularly economic and simple manner
10 without involving an increased wear of refractory materials in the slag tundish. Furthermore, the invention aims to enable disintegration and granulation with small-structured devices in a manner that subsequent grinding may be omitted by immediately obtaining a sufficiently fine grain size
15 distribution of the solidified particles.

To solve this object, the method according to the invention essentially consists in that gases, in particular air or oxygen, are introduced into the molten slag to form a foamed
20 slag, that the temperature of the foamed slag is raised to a temperature of above 1350°C, in particular 1420° to 1680°C, by the aid of fuels such as, e.g., coal introduced into the foamed slag, and that the foamed slag is ejected into a granulation chamber. By deliberately forming a foamed slag,
25 the specific weight of the slag is, at first, considerably lowered and reduced, in particular, to approximately 1/10 of the original specific weight of the compact slag melt. When forming such a foamed slag, closed-pore structures with bubble sizes having diameters in the millimeter range will result,
30 whereby such foamed slags can be produced at little expenditure by the suitable introduction of shearing forces such as, for instance, the blowing in of gases through porous flushing blocks as well as the observance of critical temperature ranges as a function of the basicity of the slag.
35 What is essential is the attainment of temperatures above 1350°C and, in particular, between 1420° and 1680°C, such temperatures being readily obtainable in the interior of foamed slags due to the structural properties of foamed slags while, at the same time, enabling the building up of a

temperature gradient towards the edge regions of the foamed slag volume. The temperature required in such foamed slags can be maintained by introducing solid fuels into the foamed slag, which, together with the oxygen blown in, will burn in the
5 interior of the foamed slag while forming said foamed slag, thus simultaneously ensuring said high melting temperatures. In such a foamed slag the desired slag composition may be adjusted in a particularly simple manner and solid additives such as, for instance, CaO, Al₂O₃ and SiO₂ may be added to
10 adjust the slag basicity in the foamed slag to values of preferably 0.8 to 1.3. It is, thus, feasible to build up the desired slag chemistry simultaneously with the desired temperature of the melt bath in the foamed slag, and all this
15 in a particularly economic manner using cost-effective fuels such as cheap coal. A possibly elevated sulfur content of such cheap coals will be bound immediately and directly into the slag, said foamed slag constituting a sort of flameless burner by which also the exhaust gas temperatures may be adjusted in the desired manner. Since the exhaust gas forming is
20 completely dedusted already in the foamed slag with possible dust being slagged *in situ* and also fuel sulfur being bound into the slag due to the basicity of the slag, a highly pure exhaust gas is formed at once, which may, for instance, be conducted directly to the buckets of a gas turbine.

25 By ejecting such a foamed slag having the desired composition and the desired temperature, into a granulation chamber, a substantially simpler and finer micro-granulation will be obtained than with compact slag melts. The slag is present in
30 the foamed slag melt already in a pre-disintegrated state such that substantially finer particles will form during subsequent rapid cooling. In principle, cooling may be effected in any conventional manner by conducting the foamed slag directly into a conventional water bath, onto a plate-type cooling
35 conveyor or over a centrifugal wheel. According to the invention, it is, however, preferably proceeded in a manner that the foamed slag is ejected by vapor and impacted with high-pressure water in countercurrent. To this end, vapor having a temperature of between 200° and 1200°C and a pressure

of between 5 and 15 bars is advantageously used to eject the foamed slag, high-pressure water having a pressure of between 50 and 300 bars advantageously being directed against the foamed slag vapor jet. The high-pressure water jet in that
5 case enters a grinding or evaporation chamber as a counter-jet to the vapor jet at a high kinetic energy. The water jet evaporates on account of the enthalpy current of the slag droplets as well as the high-temperature driving vapor. The high kinetic energy of the high-pressure water is transmitted
10 to the evaporated high-pressure water such that a vapor volume moved in a rapidly and directed manner is formed, which is directed against the particle-loaded high-temperature vapor propulsion jet at a high axially oriented speed. These two energetic potential fields mutually penetrate each other,
15 causing the thus dissipated energy to directly result in particle disintegration, whereby the adjustment of the desired speed vector of the high-pressure water may be based on the preliminary pressure of the high-pressure water, the free length of the jet as well as the distance to the high-
20 temperature vapor inlet for the further adjustment of the desired disintegration. In addition to the adjustability of the desired disintegration effect, i.e., the particle size to be achieved, it is, however, also feasible to optimize the disintegration efficiency by an appropriate selection of the
25 distances, so that a high grinding efficiency may be adjusted, for instance, also by the appropriate adjustment of the preliminary pressure of the high-pressure water.

In the main, the formation of a foamed slag in the slag
30 tundish, in addition to the adjustment of the desired slag composition, at the same time also allows for the formation of an accordingly high and highly pure hot gas volume which may be utilized energetically, for instance in a gas turbine, without requiring special exhaust gas purification means. As
35 already mentioned, the slag basicity in the foamed slag may be adjusted to values of from 0.8 to 1.3 in a simple manner by the addition of CaO, Al₂O₃ and/or SiO₂.

The best results in terms of disintegration effect and desired grinding fineness could be observed where the volume weight of the foamed slag was adjusted to below 0.35 kg/dm^3 , in particular approximately 0.28 kg/dm^3 .

5

Surprisingly, it has been shown that foamed slags under super-atmospheric pressure exhibit an elevated stability. Advantageously, it is, therefore, proceeded in the context of the method according to the invention that the foamed slag is maintained under a pressure of between 3 and 7 bars. By such a formation, a pressure gradient is simultaneously generated at the spout of the foamed slag tundish, which causes the hot foamed slag to emerge at a high kinetic and thermal energy. The hot exhaust gas substantially has the same temperature as the foamed slag and is virtually free of dust and sulfur, thus being preferably suitable, for instance, as a propellant gas for a gas turbine, whereby a portion of the recovered mechanical energy may be used for air compressors to produce the bottom gas to be fed for the formation of the foamed slag.

10

In the main, the foamed slag generator in the slag tundish presents itself as a flameless combustion chamber of a gas turbine, by which relatively lumpy alternative fuels may be used directly and exploited in an economic manner.

15

20
The device according to the invention for carrying out this method essentially is characterized by a tundish into which a gas lance opens and/or in whose bottom tuyeres are arranged, that a foamed slag overflow and an outlet opening for slag are provided, that the tundish carries a pressure-proof lid to which a sluice is connected to charge solids and coal above the slag bath, and that a lance opens into the slag outlet opening to feed a carrier gas aimed to eject the foamed slag. Disintegration in this case is effected in a consecutively 25 arranged grinding and/or evaporation chamber, to which end the configuration advantageously is devised such that a grinding and evaporation chamber is connected to the slag outlet opening, that a pressure water duct opens on the chamber side located opposite the slag outlet, and that a screening means

DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOGL

- is connected to the grinding and evaporation chamber to discharge the disintegrated and granulated material. In addition to, or instead of, using high-pressure water it is basically also feasible to use reducing liquids or gases in
- 5 the grinding and evaporation chamber, by which residual iron oxide remaining in the slag is reduced and rapid cooling is obtained, at the same time, due to the decomposition energy or cracking energy of hydrocarbons. The thus formed fine iron may be separated separately, for instance by magnetic separators.
- 10 A substantial advantage of the formation of a foamed slag, in addition to the fact that relatively high temperatures may be provided within the foamed slag in a simple and controlled manner, also consists in that possible metallic slag iron is reliably burned so as to eliminate the basic risk of slag
- 15 granulation explosions. Due to the high specific volumes of foamed slags, substantially larger slag outlet openings may be provided in the slag tundish, thus decisively minimizing the risk of obstruction or closing up by solids particles possibly entrained, for instance, as a result of a refractory material
- 20 breakout. In view of the known devices, in which compact slags are ejected into a grinding or evaporation chamber, comparatively large clear diameters increased by a factor 10 to 100 may be provided as compared to known devices.
- 25 Advantageously, an exhaust gas duct is connected to the tundish, which exhaust gas duct is conducted via a gas turbine and/or a heat exchanger, thus further enhancing the energetic utilization and economic mode of operation.
- 30 In the following, the invention will be explained in more detail by way of an exemplary embodiment schematically illustrated in the drawing, of a device suitable for carrying out the method according to the invention. Therein, Fig. 1 is a schematic cross section through a slag tundish used to carry
- 35 out the method according to the invention, and Fig. 2 depicts a schematic arrangement of a grinding and evaporation chamber following such a foamed slag generator.

In Fig. 1, 1 serves to denote a slag tundish whose bottom includes porous bottom blocks 2. Air and/or oxygen are introduced into a melt 4 via ducts 3 running through the porous bottom blocks 2, whereby a foamed slag is subsequently formed in the interior of the melt. The foamed slag reaches a slag outlet opening 6 via a foamed slag weir 5. Coaxial with said slag outlet opening 6 is provided the mouth of a lance 7, via which, for instance, high-pressure vapor may be pressed in so as to enable the foamed slag to be rapidly dispersed and disintegrated upon its emergence.

In order to increase the stability of the foamed slag, the slag tundish is designed to be closed, a lid 8 being provided. Solids and, in particular, CaO, Al₂O₃ as well as SiO₂ may be introduced directly into the foamed slag bath via a cellular wheel sluice 9 in order to adjust the basicity of the slag while, at the same time, safeguarding thorough mixing and a homogenous distribution due to great turbulences. The cellular wheel sluice 9 also may serve to introduce solid fuels such as, for instance, cheap coals in order to ensure the desired temperature of the foamed slag. Such lumpy coals are rapidly burned in the interior of the foamed slag by reaction with the oxygen contained in the pores at accordingly high temperatures, whereby highly pure exhaust gas may be drawn off via a duct 10 at a temperature substantially corresponding to the temperature of the slag. Slag temperatures of up to 2000°C and hence exhaust gas temperatures of the same order are readily feasible, such high temperatures, in the first place, forming in the interior of the foamed slag with a temperature gradient each being able to develop towards the edge of the foamed slag bath, whereby the refractory lining of the slag tundish 1 is accordingly saved. The slag tundish in this case may be maintained at a pressure of 3 to 7 bars, which substantially favors also the ejection of the foamed slag.

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The foamed slag burner performance may be varied on a large scale. Thus, in particular with a view to the formation of accordingly highly pure exhaust gas streams having high temperatures, a suitable mode of operation as a flameless

burner may be chosen, from which the slag is each discharged after having reached the desired composition, and/or into which additional slag may be continuously introduced to form the desired foamed slag.

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While the viscosity of conventional compact slags primarily decreases with increasing temperatures and increasing iron oxide portions, a foamed slag, which exhibits a structurally viscous flow behavior irrespective of its composition, has a 10 substantially lower viscosity such that even slag compositions whose temperatures in the case of compact slag melts would have to be substantially higher may be sprayed without problems. At the same time, it is feasible to adjust nearly any desired high temperatures within the foamed slags from the 15 start in an economic manner using cheap fuels, without this resulting in an increased wear of the refractory lining.

Fig. 2 depicts an advantageous disintegration device, which is arranged to follow a slag generator or slag tundish as 20 illustrated in Fig. 1. The foamed slag feed is schematically indicated by chamber 11, into which a high-temperature vapor lance 12 opens. The foamed slag 13 enters a grinding and/or evaporation chamber via an opening 14 with a high-pressure water jet 15 being introduced in the opposite direction 25 against the emerging jet via a high-pressure water lance 16. The high-pressure water lance 16 may be mounted so as to be displaceable in the sense of double arrow 17 so as to enable the adjustment of the desired parameters and, in particular, the spreading angle α substantially influencing the grinding 30 degree and the grinding efficiency. In doing so, high-pressure water having a preliminary pressure of approximately 50 to 300 bars is used. High-temperature vapor may be used in a temperature range of between 200° and 1200°C and a pressure range of 5 to 15 bars. The spreading angle α entered in Fig. 2 35 also may be regarded as an evaporation gradient, the angle α becoming larger at a smaller pressure of the high-pressure water. The larger said angle α , the smaller the grinding efficiency and the coarser the ground material. In the main, it is feasible by simple settings to adjust both the grinding

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efficiency and the reduction ratio to the respectively desired parameters, whereby the finely ground material may subsequently be drawn off via a screening device 18 and a duct 19.

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As indicated in Fig. 1 in broken lines, air/oxygen may be blown into the foamed slag through a blowing lance 20, optionally along with carbon, in order to ensure the formation of the foamed slag and the desired foamed slag temperature. In 10 those cases, no porous flushing blocks 2 need even be provided in the bottom.

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Claims:

1. A method for disintegrating and granulating slags, in which the molten slag is ejected into a granulation chamber by the aid of a propulsion jet, characterized in that gases, in particular air or oxygen, are introduced into the molten slag to form a foamed slag, that the temperature of the foamed slag is raised to a temperature of above 1350°C, in particular 1420° to 1680°C, by the aid of fuels such as, e.g., coal introduced into the foamed slag, and that the foamed slag is ejected into a granulation chamber.
2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the foamed slag is ejected by vapor and impacted with high-pressure water in countercurrent.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that vapor having a temperature of between 200° and 1200°C and a pressure of between 5 and 15 bars is used to eject the foamed slag.
4. A method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that high-pressure water having a pressure of between 50 and 300 bars is directed against the foamed slag vapor jet.
5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the slag basicity in the foamed slag is adjusted to values of from 0.8 to 1.3 by the addition of CaO, Al₂O₃ and/or SiO₂.
6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the volume weight of the foamed slag is adjusted to below 0.35 kg/dm³, in particular approximately 0.28 kg/dm³.
7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the foamed slag is maintained under a pressure of between 3 and 7 bars.

8. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that exhaust gases from the foamed slag are fed to a gas turbine.

5 9. A device for carrying out the method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized by a tundish (1) into which a gas lance (20) opens and/or in whose bottom tuyeres (2) are arranged, that a foamed slag overflow (5) and an outlet opening (6) for slag are provided, that the tundish (1)
10 carries a pressure-proof lid (8) to which a sluice (9) is connected to charge solids and coal above the slag bath, and that a lance (7) opens into the slag outlet opening (6) to feed a carrier gas aimed to eject the foamed slag (4).

15 10. A device according to claim 9, characterized in that a grinding and evaporation chamber is connected to the slag outlet opening (6), that a pressure water duct (16) opens on the chamber side located opposite the slag outlet (6), and that a screening means (18) is connected to the grinding and
20 evaporation chamber to discharge the disintegrated and granulated material.

11. A device according to claim 9 or 10, characterized in that an exhaust gas duct (10) is connected to the tundish (1),
25 which exhaust gas duct is conducted via a gas turbine and/or a heat exchanger.

205260 "DUELLER"

Abstract:

Method for Disintegrating and Granulating Slags and Device for Carrying out said Method

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The invention describes a method for disintegrating and granulating slags, in which the molten slag is ejected into a granulation chamber by the aid of a propulsion jet, wherein gases, in particular air or oxygen, are introduced into the 10 molten slag to form a foamed slag and, furthermore, the temperature of the foamed slag is raised to a temperature of above 1350°C, in particular 1420° to 1680°C, by the aid of fuels such as, e.g., coal introduced into the foamed slag, and the foamed slag is ejected into a granulation chamber. The 15 device includes a tundish (1) into which a gas lance (20) opens and/or in whose bottom tuyeres (2) are arranged, as well as a foamed slag overflow (5) and an outlet opening (6) for slag, wherein the tundish (1) carries a pressure-proof lid (8) to which a sluice (9) is connected to charge solids and coal 20 above the slag bath, and a lance (7) opens into the slag outlet opening (6) to feed a carrier gas aimed to eject the foamed slag (4). (Fig. 1)

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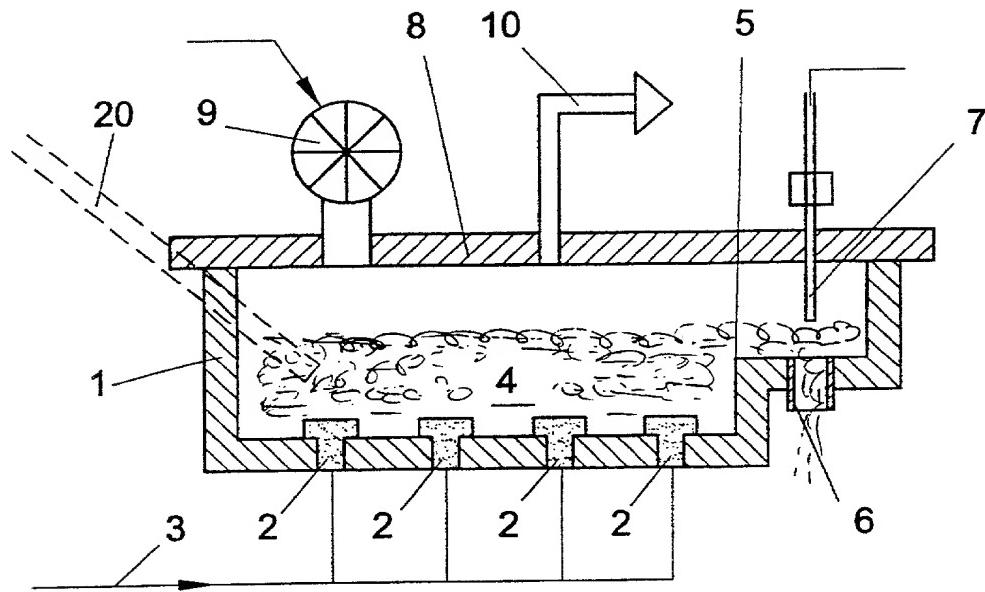
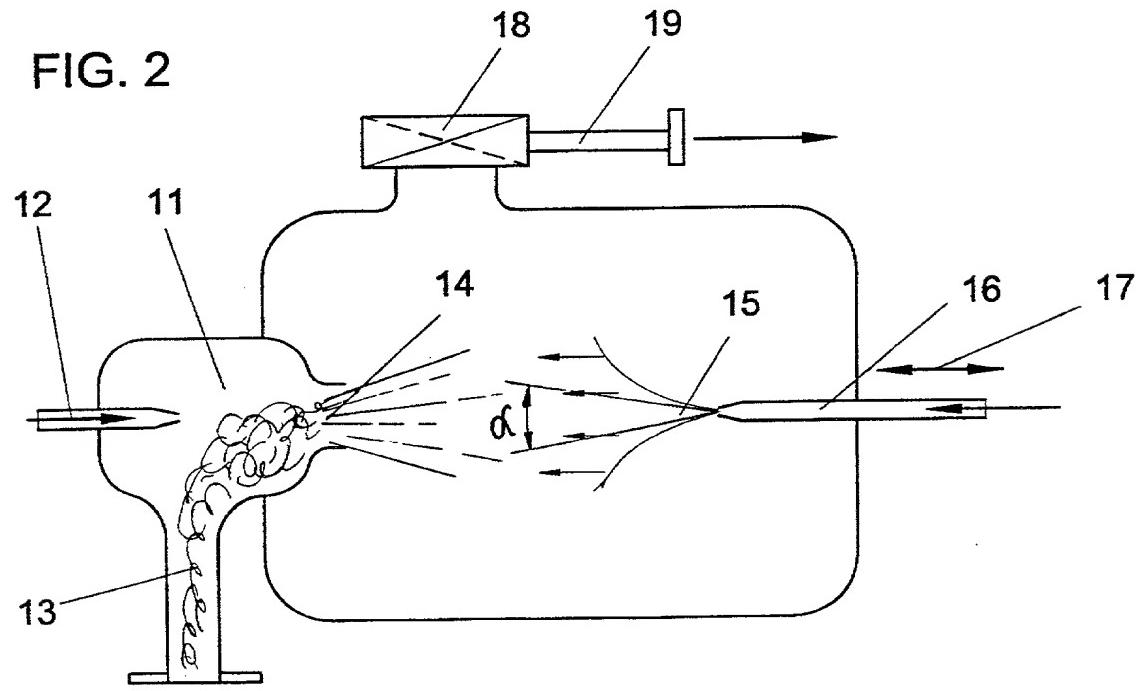


FIG. 2



ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. _____

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As below named inventor(s), I/we declare that:

My/our residence, post office addresses and citizenships are as stated below next to my/our name(s); that I/we believe I/we am/are the original, first and sole/joint inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention or design entitled:

METHOD FOR DISINTEGRATING AND GRANULATING SLAGS AND DEVICE

FOR CARRYING OUT SAID METHOD

the specification of which:

_____ is attached hereto; or

was filed on 2 Nov 2001, as Application Serial No. 09/980,750

and was amended on _____.

I/we hereby state that I/we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; and that I/we acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me/us to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I/we hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me/us on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed:

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>	<u>PRIORITY CLAIMED</u>
Austria	A802/99	05 May 1999	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO _____ YES _____ NO _____

I/we hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I/we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
PCT/AT00/00118	04 May 2000	pending

(5) I/we hereby appoint Robert J. Schneider (Reg. No. 27,383), John R. Crossan (Reg. No. 27,433), Jon C. Gealow (Reg. No. 22,386), Davis Chin (Reg. No. 26,854) and Edward Gilhooley (Reg. No. 25,004) all of the bar of State of Illinois, and using the address 111 West Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60603, my/our attorney with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and to file and prosecute any international patent applications filed thereon before any international authorities under the Patent Cooperation Treaty and I/we hereby authorize him to act and rely on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/organization who/which first sends/sent this case to him and by whom/which I/we hereby declare that I/we have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I/we instruct him in writing to the contrary.

It is requested that all correspondence be directed to:

**ROBERT J. SCHNEIDER
CHAPMAN AND CUTLER
111 WEST MONROE STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603**

I/we hereby declare that all statements made herein of my/our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

1-00 Full Name of Inventor: Alfred EDLINGER

Citizenship: Austria

Post Office Address: Dälmaweg 13, A-6780 Bartholomäberg, Austria ATX

Residence: Bartholomäberg, Austria

Inventor's signature: Alfred Edlinger

Date: 18 Feb 2002

Full Name of Inventor:

Citizenship:

Post Office Address:

Residence:

Inventor's signature:

Date:

Full Name of Inventor:

Citizenship:

Post Office Address:

Residence:

Inventor's signature:

Date: